



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
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17th June 2020

Dear parent or carer,

It seems a very long time since I last wrote to you to inform you about Sam White's resignation as head teacher at William Ellis. Within days of the letter being sent it became clear that schools were going to be severely affected by COVID 19. Since then Mr White and all the staff at William Ellis, with fantastic support from parents, carers and students, have been working hard to sustain the education and care of the boys, and girls in the sixth form, in extremely challenging circumstances.

As you will know we are now welcoming in more students before the summer holidays and the governing body has been continuing to work with Sam White and his deputy Izzy Jones about plans for the autumn term. Several internal temporary appointments have been made to the senior team and we feel confident that the arrangements we have put in place, with Izzy Jones as acting head teacher supported by Sue Higgins, the former head of Parliament Hill School, will provide energetic and robust leadership for the school in the new academic year. Ms Jones will be writing to parents shortly with more detail about the new appointments and setting out our ambitions for September.

However, this is clearly a far from ideal moment for us to say goodbye to Mr White and to show our appreciation for everything he has done for William Ellis in the last decade. So, we are proposing to invite him back later in the autumn term to show our gratitude and so that the students, parents and staff can say goodbye properly. I am pleased to say that he will also remain involved with The Mill Trust which, even though an independent charity, is very closely connected to the work of the school.

I also need to let you know that I will be standing down as chair of the governing body at the end of this term, although I will be completing my final term as a governor which ends in 2021. William Ellis School has been a huge part of my life as a parent and governor in the last 20 years and I will be very sorry to say goodbye. But the governing body has been through its own succession planning exercise in the past year and I am confident that it will be very ably led by my successor, Selina Skipwith, whose son is just finishing in Year 11, and by a strong team of colleagues who are deeply committed to the school's future and will take great care over the appointment of a permanent headteacher.

Finally, can I thank you all for the support you have shown to the school in my time as chair and in particular in these recent difficult months. I know how much it has been appreciated by staff and governors alike.

With all my best wishes for the future,

Fiona Millar
Chair of Governors
William Ellis School